

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ABF-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 HEW-02 HUD-01 INR-07

INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 SMI-01

TRSE-00 FS-01 /049 W

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R 150955Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TPHY OSCIEG US

SUBJECT: FY 75 SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND SCIENTIFIC GRANT
PROGRAM FOR EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 910 (1974)

1. IN FEBRUARY WE RAISED CEILING FOR FY 76 SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND GRANT SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS IN EGYPT TO FIVE MILLION DOLLARS. ELIGIBLE WASHINGTON AGENCIES MET IN MARCH TO ASSIGN PRIORITIES TO FIVE MILLION DOLLAR FY 75 PROGRAM. WE SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED GOE WITH FY 75 PROGRAM, WHICH WAS APPROVED IN LATE AUGUST 1974. THERE WERE OVER 80 NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FY75. AS OF JANUARY 31 WE HAVE RECORD OF THE COMPLETION OF ONLY SIX NEW GRANTS WHICH WERE APPROVED FOR FY 75 PROGRAM FROM ALL AGENCIES. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THERE WILL BE ACTIVITY IN THE LATTER PART OF FISCAL YEAR AS OBLIGATION CUT OFFS COME DUE. THIS DISAPPOINTINGLY SLOW PERFORMANCE SUGGESTS LACK OF PREPAREDNESS ON PART OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT PROGRAMS AND PERHAPS LACK OF ATTENTION TO PROGRAMS IN EGYPT.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPAT POLLING AGENCIES INVOLVED
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REGARDING THEIR INTENTIONS AND EXPECTATION FOR COMPLETION

OF PLANNED GRANTS. DEPT MIGHT POINT OUT TO THESE AGENCIES THAT SUBSTITUTION OF PROJECTS MUST HAVE FOREIGN MINISTR CLEARANCE, WHICH CAN TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS. IN CASE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, IOP CHIEF FOR EGYPT PRESENTED US LAST WEEK WITH CONSIDERABLY ALTERED NSF PROGRAM AND ASKED US TO OBTAIN EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL IN LIGHT OF NSF MARCH 31 BUDGET OBLIGATION DEADLINE. IF OTHER AGENCIES ARE PLANNING MAJOR CHANGES WE SHOULD BE INFORMED IN ORDER NOT TO CAUSE LAST MINUTE CRISIS.

3. WE EXPRESS CONCERNS ABOVE BECAUSE OF NECESSITY TO MAKE DECISION ON FY 76 PROGRAM SOON. WE BELIEVE PROGRAM IS OF CONSIDERABLE MUTUAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE PURSUED WITH ALL VIGOR. WE HAVE MISGIVINGS, HOWEVER, BASED ON PERFORMANCE THIS YEAR, THAT AGENCIES CAN BUDGET AND CARRY OUT ANOTHER GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY 76 EQUAL TO THAT OF FY 75.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SUGGEST DEPT CALL MEETING OF SFCP COORDINATORS INVOLVED IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED ABOVE AND ADVISE PROSPECTS FOR FY 76 PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC GRANTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO01760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0351
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750239/aaaabixk.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CAIRO 910 (1974)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <22 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 75 SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY FUND SCIENTIFIC GRANT PROGRAM FOR EGYPT
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006